

## **Direct deposit to municipalities a success**

About 66 percent of counties and municipalities due certain tax disbursements are now participating in an electronic government initiative through State Treasurer John Perdue's office.

As of mid-May, 192 of 291 counties and municipalities owed coal severance, liquor and wine and private club taxes were either receiving that money electronically or had filled out forms requesting the service.

"We're delighted at the rate of response to the program," Perdue said. "This is another example that people are eager to participate in e-government when given the chance."

Perdue announced in March that his office would begin offering electronic distribution of the taxes. As of mid-May, Perdue's staff had electronically sent out \$1.9 million in coal severance tax payments and another \$822,000 in wine and liquor and private club payments.

Sherri Sullivan of the treasurer's staff is helping to coordinate the project.

"They're coming in every day," Sullivan said of applications for electronic disbursements.

Two city treasury officials say they are delighted with the new method.

"I turned the (application) back around the same day we got it in the mail," said Charleston assistant treasurer Tom Capito. "The more they offer, the more we'll sign up for. I can't see a reason not to."

Capito says direct deposit of the taxes simplifies matters for both the treasurer's office and cities and counties due to receive the money. There are no longer any paper checks to process.

"It's convenient, quick and accurate," said Capito, whose city received in April \$155,000 in wine and liquor and private club taxes.

Stan Burdette, a treasurer and city clerk for Point Pleasant, had similar high praise.

"Any way we can do e-commerce I'm happy about," Burdette said. "That's how I prefer to do things."

Burdette said he enjoyed eliminating the work involved with checks.

"Time is money," Burdette said. "We don't have to go the bank."